

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 5-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US Patent No. 5,977,654 [hereinafter “Johnson”]) in view of Mochida (U.S. Patent No. 4,761,645). Claim 1 is directed to a novel and unobvious burglarproof device for a vehicle, including a unique combination of features.

**SUBSTITUTING THE ELEMENTS OF MOCHIDA IN JOHNSON WOULD NOT HAVE
TAUGHT OR SUGGESTED EACH FEATURE OF CLAIM 1**

Applicant respectfully submits that if one skilled in the art were provided with both Johnson and Mochida, that person would not have derived the claimed invention because the claimed features are not taught or suggested.

Claim 1 recites,

A burglarproof device for a vehicle comprising:

a portable transmitter having a first switch which transmits a preset first ID code;

an activation unit for the vehicle which receives the first ID code from the portable transmitter and collates the first ID code with a prestored second ID code to permit a release of a locked state of a steering wheel for the vehicle ; and

an engine operation restraining unit which disables an engine operation based on a signal from the activation unit.

Mochida discloses a keyless entry system *associated¹* with a steering lock device. (See Abstract.) Steering locking and unlocking is triggered by a predetermined vehicle operation, such as closing the doors. (*Id.*) Steering locking and unlocking is carried out when the operation is triggered and the steering lock condition is satisfied. (*Id.*)

Mochida does not disclose an activation unit for a vehicle, which receives a first ID code from a portable transmitter and collates the first ID code with a prestored second ID code to permit a release of a locked state of a steering wheel, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Mochida teaches a controller that detects a vehicle condition satisfying a predetermined steering lock condition, such that a keyless steering lock operation is performed when the vehicle and engine are stopped, as sensed by a speed sensor and an engine stop condition detector. (See Mochida, col. 5, lines 20-27.) Therefore, Mochida merely teaches to lock a steering wheel when a condition is met, such as the engine being stopped.

Mochida does not disclose an *activation unit which receives the first ID code from the portable transmitter and collates the first ID code with a prestored second ID code to permit a release of a locked state of a steering wheel for the vehicle.* Instead, the transmitter of Mochida is “designed to operate a door lock and a trunk lid lock.” (See Mochida, col. 4, lines 11-14.) A portable transmitter is not disclosed in Mochida which provides a code, which is collated with another code, to release a locked state of a steering wheel. Instead, the steering wheel lock is activated by a condition separate from a code transmitted by a portable transmitter.

¹ The Examiner is requested to appreciate that the term “associated with” is not to be interpreted as “actuated by a portable transmitter,” as the Examiner will presumably understand upon reading Applicant comments.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that if the teachings of Mochida were applied to Johnson, the combination would yield a steering wheel that is locked when a condition is satisfied, such as the engine being stopped. However, at least the claimed portable transmitter and activation unit are not taught, because Mochida does not disclose a portable transmitter that communicates with an activation unit to release of a locked state of the steering wheel.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's conclusion is incorrect. That is, Mochida does not disclose "a portable transmitter adapter to transmit a unique code for operating a steering lock actuator," as alleged on page 3 of the Office Action, lines 11-12. The section of Mochida cited in the rejection (i.e. col. 1, lines 8-17 and col. 2, 44-67) does mention a steering wheel lock, but does not disclose *an activation unit which receives a first ID code from a portable transmitter and collates the first ID code with a prestored second ID code to permit a release of a locked state* of a steering wheel for the vehicle. Instead, after reading Mochida, it's clear that the disclosed keyless entry system is used for the doors and trunk, but not the steering lock system itself. In other words, Mochida discloses a configuration that may trigger the steering lock, but it is not the portable transmitter.

Although the words "wireless transmitter" and "steering lock" are used in the col. 2, lines 44-67 of Mochida, they must be read in context for what they actually teach, which is a steering lock actuator that is "associated with the steering lock for operating the latter between a locking state and an unlocking state." (See col. 2, lines 47-50.) Thus, a "portable transmitter adapter to transmit a unique code for operating a steering lock actuator," is not disclosed. If the Examiner disagrees, he is respectfully requested to point to any specific language used in Mochida that supports the Examiner's assertion. Johnson also fails to teach or suggest at least this feature.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by the combination of Johnson and Mochida, such that the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 5, 6 and 8 should likewise be withdrawn at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 2 and 3

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Mochida and further in view of Flick (US Patent No. 6,827,642).

The Examiner acknowledges that Johnson does not disclose a portable transmitter that has a second switch for transmitting a third ID code. Without conceding to the grounds of rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that the application of Mochida and Flick fails to make up for the deficient teachings of Johnson in regard to claim 1, such that the rejection of claims 2 and 3 should be withdrawn at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1.

Claim 4

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Mochida and Walter (US Patent No. 6,275,141). The Examiner acknowledges that Johnson fails to disclose an alarming unit that raises an alarm by sensing a vibration of a vehicle when the engine operation is disabled and relies on Walter for this feature. Without conceding to the grounds of rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that Mochida and Walter fails to make up

for the deficient teachings of Johnson in regard to claim 1, such that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn at least by virtue of claim 4's dependency.

Claim 7

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Mochida and Hwang (US Patent No. 5,760,680).

The Examiner acknowledges that Johnson does not disclose an engine operation restraining unit that disables operation of the engine if the engine is not operated after a fixed time. The Examiner, therefore, relies on Hwang for this feature. Without conceding to the grounds of rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that Mochida and Hwang fails to make up for the deficient teachings of Johnson in regard to claim 1, such that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn at least by virtue of claim 7's dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/663,818

Attorney Docket # Q77067

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

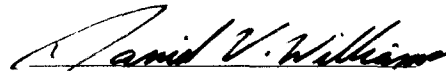
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER



Daniel V. Williams
Registration No. 45,221

Date: June 8, 2006